

## CLAIMS

1. Multipurpose support vessel (1), comprising a hull (2) with a bow (3) and a stern (4) and with a propulsion arrangement (5), a bridge (6) and accommodation quarters (7) and storage areas (8) for loads and cargo, where  
5 the bridge (6) and accommodation quarters (7) form a superstructure and are located in the aft part of the vessel (1) and almost all storage areas (8) for loads and cargo are positioned between the superstructure (6,7) and the bow section (3) of the vessel, characterised in that there is access opening (25) from the outside of the stern (4) of the vessel through and or below the  
10 accommodation quarters (7), to the storage areas (8) of the vessel, and that there is a working platform for hose connections in the bow (3) of the vessel.
2. Vessel according to claim 1, characterised in that parts of the working platform in the bow section (3) of the vessel is protected by a breakwater hood (17) in the bow section (3).
- 15 3. Vessel according to claim 1, characterised in that the wheelhouse (14) comprises only one bridge console (20).
4. Vessel according to claim 1, characterised in that there are pipe and/or hose connection points (30) in the bow section of the vessel.
- 20 5. Vessel according to claim 1, characterised in that the drive unit (9) for the propulsion arrangement (5) is in the aft part of the vessel.
6. Vessel according to claim 1, characterised in that the propulsion arrangement (5) comprises azimuth propellers in the aft of the vessel.
- 25 7. Method for loading/unloading a support vessel (1) by an offshore installation, characterised in that the vessel (1) is brought up to the installation docking area with the bow section (3), with the use of loading/unloading equipment on the vessel (1) and on the installation the loads and cargo is loaded/unloaded, thereafter the vessel (1) is backed away from the installation.
- 30 8. Method according to claim 7, characterised in that the crew during the loading/unloading operation may position themselves in the protected working area in the bow (3) of the vessel.